

Our Ref: KEB/jd
16th July 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

The summer holidays are fast approaching and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your support during this academic year. Your support has allowed students to achieve so much during the year and we look forward to celebrating many of their successes during our celebration assembly on Friday 19th July. As we move towards the summer break we would like to update you on some important information that will be in place for September linked to equipment, mobile phones and uniform.

Equipment

From September students will be expected to have the following basic equipment with them in school every day.

- Smart Card (first card provided by the school)
- Pen
- Pencil
- Green pen
- Ruler
- Scientific Calculator
- Compass
- Protractor
- Whiteboard pen
- Glue Stick (optional)

To help prepare students for their examinations it is advised that this equipment is in a clear pencil case.

Having the listed equipment every day will ensure that all students are able to maximise on the learning opportunities in each lesson. Students' equipment will be checked by tutors each morning and the behaviour policy used if students do not have this with them.

The equipment can be purchased from any shop however the LRC in school will sell packs of all of the required equipment for £10 and this has been added to Parentpay.

Mobile Phones

We have listened to many of your concerns and comments regarding mobile phones as well as being informed by recent changes in the law.

Currently our students are able to use mobile phones during break time and lunchtimes however from September the following change will take place;



A student may bring in a mobile phone to school, but it must remain turned off and in their bag for the entire day, this includes before school and at breaktime and lunchtime.

We have taken the decision to make this change for the following reasons;

- Current research is highlighting the significant and detrimental pressure that social media and its use is having on young people. There is no reason why a student would need their mobile during the day. Any messages that need to be passed to them or vice versa can be done through the school office thus providing a few hours of 'digital detox' for students during the school day.
- GDPR rules are such that anyone using a device to photograph or video in school could be committing an offence and it therefore makes it far safer for everyone if they are not allowed.
- As a school, we take any form of bullying very seriously and we believe one way to help eradicate it is to remove the opportunity of students using any online platform whilst in our care.

If a student is seen with their phone, it will be confiscated and placed in a locked safe until the end of the day when they will be able to collect it. If they refuse to hand over the phone, this will be deemed as defiance and there will be a further sanction.

Sixth form students will be allowed to use their phones in the sixth form common room, study room and cafe but the same rule will apply to the sixth form around the school site.

Uniform

You will have received a letter from Mr Willis about uniform expectations for September. Please could we highlight the change to the policy on school shoes. Shoes must be wholly black, leather/leather-look, with no white or coloured markings whatsoever. Any laces must also be black. Trainers, boots, skate shoes, shoes designed for leisure wear (including leather Vans), suede or canvas shoes or shoes with logos are not permitted. Further guidance is available on the school website <http://www.qe.dorset.sch.uk/dress> or you may contact tutors or Heads of House.

We genuinely hope that you will be able to support us by ensuring that students have the necessary equipment, correct uniform and are aware of the rules surrounding mobile phones. If you require any further information on any of these points then please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor.

I wish you all a very happy summer holiday and look forward to welcoming your children back in the new term.

Yours sincerely



Katie Boyes, **Headteacher**

